"Yes, I packed Papa's new book with everything else he wrote and brought them back from Italy. They are in a box upstairs."

"I think your father's publishers," the Duke said, "will be delighted when they hear what you have to show them."

"I cannot imagine why I never thought of the articles being put together into a book. But they are fascinating and I know people will enjoy them."

"I am sure it would be a best-seller," the Duke agreed. "A lot of people find it hard to get through a whole volume, but they would enjoy a book that is almost like a collection of short stories, which, of course, is exactly what they are."

"I can only say . . thank you, thank you . . once again," Luella said. She thought if the publishers agreed it would certainly make it possible for her to have Enrico with her.

Then she knew that it might still be expensive. She wondered whether she could beg the Duke for a small cottage on his estate.

As if he read her thoughts, he said: "I must advise you once again, Luella, not to be too determined to look after Enrico. As I have already said, you are very young, and an adopted child might make things more difficult for you than they are already."

"It will be difficult," Luella agreed in a small voice, "if I have to . . ask Papa's relatives not only to have me, but Enrico as well." She sighed and then went on: "But perhaps I can find somewhere cheap where we could live and where there would be a school nearby in which he could be educated."

The Duke did not answer. She thought perhaps he was angry that she did not immediately say she would give up her idea of looking after Enrico.

Fortunately, after they were served with the next course, he started to talk of something else. She then encouraged him to tell her the history of some of the treasures that were in this house as well as those in the Castle.

"I am only just learning about them myself," the Duke admitted.

"It must be very exciting," Luella remarked, "like having an Aladdin's cave all to yourself."

The Duke smiled. "Now you are making me feel greedy, or else, like my relatives, you are trying to push me into matrimony."

Luella remembered what the Dowager Marchioness had said. She thought that if the Queen insisted on finding him a bride, it would be impossible for him to refuse whatever suggestion she might make.

She did not say anything and the Duke went on: "I know you are thinking of Enrico, but you have to remember that one day you will marry and have children of your own." He stopped for a moment and smiled at her. "Your husband may resent having an Italian boy attached to his family, whether he likes it or not."

Luella did not answer and after a moment he said: "I have had a message to say that the Ambassador will call on me at three o'clock tomorrow afternoon. So I suggest we do not make any plans about Enrico, nor shall I see my solicitors until after I have talked to him."